ABOUT TOWN / Valerie Shimoyama

A spy-proof invention

If any two cities have a love/hate relationship with Xerox Corp., it's probably Moscow and Washington. What spy would be caught without a photocopy machine? Perhaps one of the least reviled but most guilty villains in recent spy exposés has been the photocopier.

Admittedly, mimeograph and other copying machines have been a great boon to mankind. But if Secretary of the Navy John Lehman has a favorite dream, it might be of a paper that cannot be copied. He need dream no more. It has been developed by inventors Norman Gardner, a Toronto advertiser, and Michael Voticky, a Montreal furrier. The paper is spyproof.

May the State Department and Navy take heed.

There is a small problem. The paper when first developed was burgundy-colored and hard to read. Now they've developed a hot pink line.

"We don't know how much we can sell to the government," says Vicky Diede, project manager for Boise Cascade's security paper division in Portland, Ore., that will be producing the paper. But one thing they do know. It would sell more if it were *not* hot pink/-burgundy.

Nevertheless, she adds, "I can tell you that we've had a tremendous amount of interest because of the [John A. Walker Jr.] spy case."

— Barbara Moseley-Marks contributed to this column